

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is submitted responsive to the official action mailed February 23, 2005. Reconsideration of the application in light of the accompanying remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

In the aforesaid action, the Examiner rejected the pending independent claims 1 and 15 over Hill et al. in view of Damotte (claim 15) and further in view of Senjo et al. (claim 1). The rejections of independent claims 16 and 18 are rendered moot through cancellation of these claims without prejudice.

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claims 2, 3, 5 and 11 and it is believed that the art of record clearly fails to disclose or suggest this subject matter. Claim 15 has been amended to include a portion of this subject matter and likewise is submitted to clearly define over the art of record.

The Examiner indicated that the newly cited Damotte and Fernandez references were applied to teach that force sensors in aircraft controls is well known. These references do not, however, teach the specific subject matter of claims 1 and 15.

It is noted that Fernandez is not specifically applied in the rejections of record, and it is submitted that nothing in Fernandez discloses or suggests the specific placement of gas lever, force sensor, housing with guide slot and guide bush as claimed in claims 1 and 15.

As to Damotte, the position of the force sensor is very different from that of the instant claims and this positioning is not a matter of design choice. Damotte shows a force sensor positioned between control member 2 and a motor 8 (Fig. 3) or between control member 2 and a damper 20 (Fig. 4). This does not disclose or suggest the claimed position of the force sensor. On the other hand, the position of the sensor in the present invention is important and provides an important function in this position as set forth in previous responses. This subject matter is not taught by any art of record.

In addition, the art of record does not disclose or suggest the positioning of the gas lever extending from and guided linearly in the guide slot of the housing as called for in claims 1 and 15.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal

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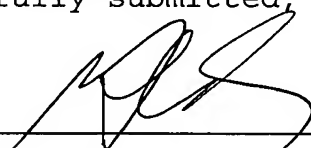
interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

It is believed that no additional fee is due in connection with this response. If, however, any fee is due, please charge same to deposit account no. 02-0184.

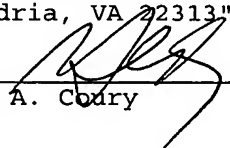
Respectfully submitted,

By


George A. Coury
Attorney for the Applicant
Telephone: 203-777-6628, x113
Fax: 203-865-0297
E-mail: couryg@bachlap.com

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on June 23, 2005.


George A. Coury